

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph immediately after the inventor's name and before the Field of the Invention at page 2 of the application:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,154, filed July 31, 2001, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.--
now us patent 6,653,539,

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Please insert the following paragraphs at page 6, line 5 of the application:

--Therefore, the wear protection device for a musical wind instrument is comprised of at least one grooved section, such as tubular tubing section 3 in Fig. 1, having at least one mating end in communication with an adjoining section of the musical instrument during normal operation of the musical instrument. The wear protection device is further comprised of an interface insert 3 slideably positioned into the groove, wherein an exposed end (clearly seen in Fig. 7) of the interface insert 3 extends beyond the mating end of the grooved section of a musical instrument, whereby the interface insert 3 prevents direct contact between the mating end of the grooved section of the musical instrument and the adjoining section of the musical instrument.

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Furthermore, the grooved section could contain a post 4, the post having a bore opening, wherein the mating end is in communication with the adjoining section, and wherein the adjoining section is a shaft 2.

Furthermore, the grooved section could contain a post 4, the post having a bore opening, wherein the mating end is in communication with the adjoining section, wherein the groove has an annular shape, the interface insert 3 has annular shape and the interface insert 3 is slideably inserted into the groove, and wherein the adjoining section is a tubular tubing section 1.

Similarly, the grooved section could contain a tubular tubing section, the tubular tubing section 1 having a bore opening, wherein the groove has an annular shape, the interface insert has annular shape and the interface insert 3 is slideably inserted into the groove, and wherein the adjoining section is a post 4, as seen in Fig. 3.

Moreover, as seen in Fig. 3, the wear protection could be comprised of at least one post 4, the post 4 having a bore opening, and having a shaft 2 passing through the bore opening, wherein a tubular interface insert 6 is affixed to a surface of the bore opening, whereby the tubular interface insert 6 prevents direct contact between the shaft 2 and the post 4.--

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